**UNITED KINGDOM**

**Region:** Europe and Central Asia  
**Income group:** High income

**Summary:** The United Kingdom have reported 6 metadata sources, which collect information on international labour migration statistics. There are two survey based sources such as *Population Census* and *Labour Force Survey*, which are carried out by Office for National Statistics. There are three administrative records such as *Admissions data* and *Immigration Statistics* held by the Home Office of Science of Migration and Border Analysis – Migration Statistics and *Migrant Workers Scan* held by the Department for Work and Pensions & Her Majestys Revenue and Customs. There is an estimation of international migrant workers in the country which is carried out by the Office for National Statistics.

Geographically the sources cover whole country, except the *Population Census*, which covers England and Wales only. The statistics on the following population groups are available:

- **Nationals (citizens) in the country** (covered by the *Population Census*, the *Labour Force Survey*, the *Migrant Workers Scan*, and the estimation),
- **Nationals (citizens) employed in the country** (covered by the *Population Census*, the *Labour Force Survey*, and the estimation),
- **Nationals (citizens) living and working abroad** (covered by the *Population Census*),
- **Foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country** (covered by the *Population Census*, the *Labour Force Survey*, and the estimation),
- **Foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country** (covered by the *Population Census*, the *Labour Force Survey*, and the estimation),
- **Refugees** (covered by the *Admissions data*),
- **Asylum seekers** (covered by the estimation),
- **Foreigners (non-citizens) entering the country to live** (covered by the estimation),
- **Foreigners (non-citizens) entering country for temporary purposes** (covered by the estimation), and
- **Transit migrants** (covered by the estimation).

Periodicity of data collection varies depending on the type of source. The *Population Census* in the UK was last processed in 2011; the *Labour Force Survey* is carried out on continuously basis starting from 1992; the *Admissions data* is published every six months and is held starting from 1907; the *Immigration Statistics* are published quarterly, admission data is published every six months; the *Migrant Workers Scan* is carried out every three months starting from 1975; the estimation is held every three months starting from 1997. Both survey based sources and the *Migrant Workers Scan* cover persons aged 16 years and older. The other sources amass information on population of all ages.

The four essential demographic characteristics covered by the survey and the estimation are age, gender, marital status, household size, and educational attainment. In the estimation the data on household composition can be found. The administrative records include questions on sex and age of persons examined. International migration related characteristics vary depending on the source. Nationality, country of birth, and country of citizenship are covered by most of the sources. Labour related characteristics can be found in the *Population Census*, the *Labour Force Survey*, and the estimation including employment status, occupation, industry/economic sector, status in employment, occupational injury, wage rate, disability, and hours usually worked.

Various nationally adapted and standard ILO and UN definitions of “international migrant workers”, “employment”, and “overseas visitors” are applied in the sources. The classifications used for occupation, industry, status in employment, and education in the surveys and the estimation are both internationally and nationally adapted.

Micro data files from the surveys are available for research and analysis outside the agency for free.
Findings:

The latest *Population Census* in the United Kingdom was carried out in 2011 by the Office for National Statistics. The census covers England & Wales only. Scotland & Northern Ireland conduct their own similar Census which enables the UK tables to be published. There are five population groups examined in the source.

- *Nationals (citizens) in the country,*
- *Nationals (citizens) employed in the country,*
- *Nationals (citizens) living and working abroad,*
- *Foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country, even if arrived recently, and*
- *Foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country.*

The *Population Census* obtains detailed data on demographic characteristics of these population groups. The questions raised in the assessment on the topic of international migration related characteristics, comprise country of birth, country of citizenship, second country of citizenship, country of previous residence for foreigners, and country of previous residence for citizens who lived abroad but returned. In addition to demographic
characteristics, the Population Census covers labour related characteristics of all current household members aged 16 years and older such as:

- Employment status,
- Occupation,
- Industry/economic sector,
- Status in employment,
- Hours usually worked, and
- Disability.

The Population Census contains questions, which help to collect information on immigrants and return migrants such as: ‘Have you ever lived outside this country?’ and ‘When did you arrive to this country?’

There is no specific definition of an “international migrant worker” in the census. However the UN definition of “long-term international migrant” is applied. In order to measure “employment” the census asks if the respondent was in paid work the week before the census, this is taken to be in employment. To classify occupation, industry, and status in employment nationally adapted classifications are applied. For example:

- SOC2010 to classify occupation;
- UKSIC 2007 to classify industry; and
- NS-SEC to classify status in employment.

Three levels of access to micro-data files on population groups covered by the Population Census are available for research and analysis.

The Labour Force Survey commenced in 1992, and is held continuously by the Office for National Statistics. A completed sample size of the examination is 40,000 households with 95,000 individuals. It geographically measures the whole country and amasses information on the following four population groups aged 16 years and over:

- Nationals (citizens) in the country,
- Nationals (citizens) employed in the country,
- Foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country, even if arrived recently, and
- Foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country.

The Labour Force Survey retrieves the data on demographic characteristics, of each person in a household. The survey amasses the following international migration related characteristics:

- Country of birth,
- Country of citizenship,
- Nationality, and
- Foreign workers in the country.

For the population groups assessed in the survey, the data on labour related characteristics is available, particularly for:

- Employment status,
- Occupation,
- Industry/economic sector,
- Status in employment,
- Individual earnings per month,
- Wage or earnings rate per time period,
- Hours usually worked,
- Occupational injury, and
- Disability.
The **Labour Force Survey** includes questions on the possible benefits that may be received from employer such as retirement pension and paid vacation. The **Labour Force Survey** contains questions, which helps to collect information on immigrants and return migrants such as: *When did you arrive to this country?*

Two types of “**migrant workers**” are identified in the survey: (1) people who are non-UK nationals currently in employment; (2) people who were born outside the UK and currently in employment. To define “**employment**” in the source follows the standard ILO definition. To classify occupation, industry, status in employment, and education in the UK, internationally and nationally adapted classifications are applied. For example:

- National adaptation of ISCO;
- NACE, NAICS (where up to four digits are used to release the data);
- National adaptation of ICSE; and
- National adaptation of ISCED.

Micro data is available outside NSO for research and analysis outside the agency for free. Identifying individual persons are restricted.

**Border/Admission Statistics** are covered by the **Admissions** data obtained from the Home Office of Science of Migration and Border Analysis – Migration Statistics. In 1907, this category of source originated in the UK where the data is published every six months and collection process includes sampling of landing cards at the border. It processes the following four population groups of all age groups:

- **Foreigners (non-citizens) entering country to live,**
- **Foreigners (non-citizens) entering country for temporary purposes,**
- **Refugees,** and
- **Transit migrants.**

The statistics cover demographic related characteristics such as sex and migration related characteristics such as country of citizenship, year of arrival, and immigration category. The data collected on the sex of persons is not published/disseminated as there is no demand on it.

To define “**overseas visitors**” and “**international migrant workers**”, various categories are applied according to the UK’s migration control system and legislation.

Micro-data files are unavailable for the research and analysis outside the agency.

The **Immigration Statistics** in the UK are data extracts from the administrative sources. They are not a population register for the UK. It is carried out by the Home Office Science of Migration and Border Analysis – Migration Statistics in the UK where most of data is published quarterly and admissions data is published every six months. The immigration control relates to whole of the UK hence the data is for the whole country; the data relates to administrative case working and not UK’s population hence no specific population groups are covered.

In the register, data can be found on demographic characteristics such as age and sex. Migration related characteristics accessible through the source are:

- Nationality,
- Country of citizenship, and
- Categories of UK’s immigration system.

To define “**international migrant workers**”, UK’s immigration system categories such as Tier 2. Other categories include individuals who have limited rights to work such as students. Micro data files are unavailable for research and analysis outside the agency.

The **Migrant Workers Scan** is a social security registration system controlled by the Department of Work and Pension & Her Majestys Revenue and Customs every 3 months. This initiated in 1975 and geographically calculates the whole country. The information in the register is collected on the “**nationals (citizens) in the country**” aged 16 years and older not including dependents and family members who do not require a national insurance number in the UK.
Demographic characteristics such as age and sex are accessible through the register. Data is available on the migration related characteristics such as nationality and year of arrival. The data on the year of arrival is not published/disseminated as it is self-reported and a subject to retrospection.

The source records the number of non-UK nationals registering for a National Insurance Number by nationality as reported in their passport. No information on reason for registration, duration of stay, subsequent citizenship, family/dependents, or worker status is available from this source, since NINos are never ‘deregistered’, no information of leavers from the UK is available from this source.

The UK Office for National Statistics produces the estimates on international migrant workers in the country every three months since 1997. This covers the whole country and exactly the following five population groups of all ages:

- Nationals (citizens) in the country
- Nationals (citizens) employed in the country,
- Foreigners (non-citizens) living and working in the country,
- Foreigners (non-citizens) living and working in the country, and
- Asylum seekers.

It accumulates data on demographic characteristics of people such as age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, household size, and household composition. The estimation amasses the data on international migration characteristics of population groups covered such as country of birth, duration of stay in country to date, reason for migration, nationality, and foreign workers in the country.

Statistics on labour related characteristics are also obtained, precisely on employment status, occupation, industry/economic sector, status in employment, wage rate, hours usually worked, and occupational injury. Definition of “employment” in the estimation if the standard ILO definition. The following classifications of occupations, industry, status in employment, and education are used:

- National adaptation of ISCO;
- NACE, NAICS (where one digit is used to release the data)
- National adaptation of ICSE; and
- National adaptation of ISCED.

1. Population Census

**SOURCE**

**Title of source:** Census 2011

**Year of last census:** 2011

**Agency responsible:** Office for National Statistics

**COVERAGE**

**Geographical coverage:** England & Wales. Scotland & Northern Ireland conduct their own similar Census which enables UK tables to be published.

**Population groups covered:** Nationals (citizens) in the country, nationals (citizens) employed in the country, nationals (citizens) living and working abroad, foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country, even if arrived recently, foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country.

- **Publication/dissemination of data on population groups covered:** Nationals (citizens) in the country, nationals (citizens) employed in the country, nationals (citizens) living and working abroad, foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country, even if arrived recently.
TOPICS COVERED

Demographic characteristics: Age, marital status, household size, sex, educational attainment

International migration related characteristics: Country of birth, country of citizenship, second country of citizenship, country of previous residence for foreigners, country of previous residence for citizens who lived abroad but returned.

- Coverage for international migration related characteristics:
  - All persons - country of birth, country of citizenship;
  - Not for all - second country of citizenship, country of previous residence for foreigners, country of previous residence for citizens who lived abroad but returned.

- Exceptions for international migration related characteristics:
  - Second country of citizenship – only if the person hold another passport in addition to a UK or Irish passport;
  - Country of previous residence for foreigners, country of previous residence for citizens who lived abroad but returned – only for those who lived abroad one year ago.

Information about household members left to live abroad: No

Labour related characteristics of all current household members: Employment status, occupation, industry/economic sector, status in employment, hours usually worked, disability.

- Age coverage: 16 and over

Remittances related characteristics: N.A.

Information on immigrants and return migrants: Persons who ever lived outside this country, period of arrival to this country.

- Information on the situation of the person prior to leaving the household last time is obtained: NA

Data collected and not published/disseminated: No

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Definition of international migrant workers: In the Census there is not a specific definition for an international migrant worker. However the definition of an international migrant is applied as follows:

UN definition of a long-term international migrant: “A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence.”

Definition of national (citizen) living abroad: N.A.

Definition of employment: The Census does not have a specific definition for employment. But the Census asks if the respondent was in paid work the week before the census. This is taken to be in employment.

CLASSIFICATION

Classification used for occupation: SOC2010

- Number of digits used to release occupation data: N.A.

Classification used for industry: UKSIC 2007

- Number of digits used to release industry data: N.A.

Classification used for status in employment: NS-SEC
Classification used for status in education: N.A.

DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

Data collection method: Self-administrated mail questionnaire (household receives census questionnaire by mail, returns by mail), self-administrated online (web) census questionnaire/Computer Assisted Web Interview (CAWI).

Compulsory participation of households: Yes

Official estimate of under-coverage rate: Undercoverage rate of total population is 6%, but adjusted for by Census Coverage Survey.


Metadata has been prepared and disseminated: Yes

Micro-data is available outside NSO/responsible agency: Yes

- Limitations: Three levels of access to micro-data files are available for research and analysis.
- Cost of obtaining micro-data: N.A.

2. Household Survey

SOURCE

Title of survey: Labour Force Survey

Agency responsible: Office for National Statistics

PERIODICITY AND COVERAGE

Periodicity of data collection: Continuously

Year the survey first started: 1992

Geographical coverage: Whole country

Population groups covered: Nationals (citizens) living in the country, nationals (citizens) employed in the country, foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country, even if arrived recently, foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country.

- Publication/dissemination of data on population groups covered: Nationals (citizens) living in the country, nationals (citizens) employed in the country, foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country, even if arrived recently, foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country.

Age coverage: 16 and over

TOPICS COVERED

Demographic characteristics: Age, marital status, household size, sex, educational attainment

International migration related characteristics: Country of birth, country of citizenship, nationality, foreign workers in the country.

- Coverage for international migration related characteristics: All persons - country of birth, country of citizenship
- Exceptions for international migration related characteristics: No

Information about household members left to live abroad: No
Labour related characteristics of all current household members: Employment status, occupation, industry/economic sector, status in employment, individual earnings per month, wage or earnings rate per time period, hours usually worked, whether person has had an occupational injury, whether person has had disability.

Benefits received from the employer: Unemployment benefits, paid vacation

Remittances related characteristics: No

Information on immigrants and return migrants: Period of arrival to the country

- Information on the situation of the person prior to leaving the country of residence is obtained: Reason for choosing to migrate to this country

Data collected and not published/disseminated: No

Information on persons who left to live or work abroad (recruitment, communication, assistance etc.): N.A.

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Definition of international migrant workers: We define two types of migrant workers: (1) people who are non-UK national currently in employment, (2) people who were born outside the UK and currently in employment.

Definition of national (citizen) living abroad: N.A.

Definition of employment: It follows the standard ILO definition

CLASSIFICATION

Classification used for occupation: National adaptation of ISCO

- Number of digits used to release occupation data: N.A.

Classification used for industry: NACE, NAICS

- Number of digits used to release industry data: up to 4

Classification used for status in employment: National adaptation of ICSE

Classification used for status in education: National adaptation of ISCED

DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

Data collection method: Face-to-face computer assisted interview (CAPI), computer assisted telephone interview, with data recorded by interviewer on computer (CATI)

Compulsory participation of households: No


Metadata has been prepared and disseminated: Yes

Micro-data is available outside NSO/responsible agency: Yes

- Limitations: Identifying individual persons are restricted.
- Cost of obtaining micro-data: Free

SAMPLE DESIGN

Sample frame used: Administrative register – postal address codes
Completed sample size:

- Total households – 40,000;
- Total individuals – 95,000;

Evaluation of the overall response rate or refusal rate: Yes

3. Border/Admission Statistics

**SOURCE**

**Title of source:** Admissions

**Agency responsible:** Home Office – Home Office Science – Migration and Border Analysis – Migration Statistics

**PERIODICITY AND COVERAGE**

**Periodicity of data collection:** 6 months publication; collection includes sampling of landing cards at the border

**Year the statistics first started:** 1907

**Population coverage:** Foreigners (non-citizens) entering country to live, foreigners (non-citizens) entering country for temporary purposes, such as tourism, shopping, visiting, business, etc., refugees, transit migrants.

- **Publication/dissemination of data on population groups covered:** Foreigners (non-citizens) entering country to live, foreigners (non-citizens) entering country for temporary purposes, such as tourism, shopping, visiting, business, etc., refugees.

**Age coverage:** All ages

**CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS COVERED**

**Demographic characteristics:** Sex

**Migration related characteristics:** Country of citizenship, year of arrival, immigration category e.g. Tier 2 of the Points Based System.

**Labour related characteristics:** N.A.

**Data collected and not published/disseminated:** Sex – no demand; cost; (other published sources covering visitors, short term migrants and long term migrants provide age and sex breakdown based on the Office for National Statistics’ International Passenger Survey; data for those in employment is produced and published by ONS from the Labour Force Survey).

**CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS**

**Definition of overseas visitor:** It has no definition. But, various categories are applied according to the UK’s migration control system and legislation.

**Definition of country of residence:** N.A.

**Definition of international migrant workers:** It has no definition. But, various categories are applied according to the UK’s migration control system and legislation

**CLASSIFICATION**

**Classification used for occupation:** N.A.

- **Number of digits used to release occupation data:** N.A.
Classification used for industry: N.A.

- Number of digits used to release industry data: N.A.

Classification used for status in employment: N.A.
Classification used for status in education: N.A.

**DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION**

Data collection method: See user guide – landing cards are partially self-completed and partially completed by Immigration Officers at the border.


Metadata has been prepared and disseminated: Yes

Micro-data is available outside NSO/responsible agency: No

6.1. Administrative Sources: Immigration Statistics

**SOURCE**


Agency responsible: Home Office – Home Office Science – Migration and Border Analysis – Migration Statistics

Kind of source: Most of the datasets are derived from administrative sources on casework decision making. They are not a population register for the UK. Migration Statistics is responsible for the publication of statistics based on data extracts from these countries. See user guide [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/user-guide-to-home-office-immigration-statistics--9](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/user-guide-to-home-office-immigration-statistics--9) and [http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics)

**PERIODICITY AND COVERAGE**

Periodicity of data release: Most data is published quarterly; Admissions data is six-monthly.

Year the source first started: Various

Geographical coverage: Immigration control relates to the whole of the UK hence the data is for the whole of the UK; the data releases to administrative caseworking and not UK’s population [hence N/A for population coverage].

Population coverage: N.A.

- Publication/dissemination of data on population groups covered: N.A.

Age coverage: All ages

**DATA COLLECTED ON PERSONS IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCE**

Demographic characteristics: Age, sex

Migration related characteristics: Country of citizenship, nationality, categories of UK’s immigration system.

Labour related characteristics: N.A.
Data collected and not published/disseminated: No demand; cost; (other published sources covering visitors, short term migrants and long term migrants provide age and sex breakdown based on the Office for National Statistics’ International Passenger Survey; data for those in employment is produced and published by ONS from the Labour Force Survey).

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Definition of international migrant workers: The data relate to categories within UK’s immigration system. Some categories are specifically for work e.g. Tier 2 relates to high skilled work. Other categories include individuals who have limited rights to work e.g. students.

Definition of short-term migrant worker: N.A

Definition of a national (citizen) living abroad: N.A

Definition of employment: N.A

Definition of individual earnings: N.A

CLASSIFICATION

Classification used for occupation: N.A.

- Number of digits used to release occupation data: N.A.

Classification used for industry: N.A.

- Number of digits used to release industry data: N.A.

Classification used for status in employment: N.A.

Classification used for status in education: N.A.

DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

Compulsory registration for the population groups covered: N.A.

Official estimate of coverage rate: N.A.


Metadata has been prepared and disseminated: Yes

Micro-data is available outside NSO/responsible agency: No

6.2. Administrative Sources: Migrant Workers Scan

SOURCE

Title of source: Migrant Workers Scan

Agency responsible: Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)& Her Majestys Revenue and Customs (HMRC)

Kind of source: Social security registration system

PERIODICITY AND COVERAGE

Periodicity of data release: Every 3 months

Year the source first started: 1975

Geographical coverage: Whole country - UK
**Population coverage:** Nationals (*citizens*) living in the country

- **Publication/dissemination of data on population groups covered:** Nationals (*citizens*) living in the country

**Age coverage:** 16+ non-UK nationals registering for a national insurance number in the UK. Excludes dependents and family members who do not require a NINo.

**DATA COLLECTED ON PERSONS IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCE**

- **Demographic characteristics:** Age, sex
- **Migration related characteristics:** Year of arrival, nationality
- **Labour related characteristics:** N.A.

**Data collected and not published/disseminated:** Year of arrival – published statistics are based on year on NINo registration rather than arrival. Arrival dates are self-reported and subject to retrospection.

**CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS**

- **Definition of international migrant workers:** The administrative source records the number of non-UK nationals registering for a National Insurance Number – by nationality as reported on their passport. No information on reason for registration, duration of stay, subsequent citizenship, family/dependents, or worker status is available from this source. Since NINOs are never 'deregistered', no information of leavers from the UK is available from this source.

- **Definition of short-term migrant worker:** N.A

- **Definition of a national (citizen) living abroad:** N.A

- **Definition of employment:** N.A

- **Definition of individual earnings:** N.A

**CLASSIFICATION**

- **Classification used for occupation:** N.A
- **Number of digits used to release occupation data:** N.A.

- **Classification used for industry:** N.A
- **Number of digits used to release industry data:** N.A.

- **Classification used for status in employment:** N.A

- **Classification used for status in education:** N.A

**DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION**

- **Compulsory registration for the population groups covered:** Yes

- **Official estimate of coverage rate:** N.A.


- **Metadata has been prepared and disseminated:** Yes

- **Micro-data is available outside NSO/responsible agency:** No
7. Estimation of International Migrant Workers in the Country

SOURCE

Title of source: N.A.
Reference year: N.A.
Agency responsible: UK Office for National Statistics

PERIODICITY AND COVERAGE

Periodicity of data release: Every 3 months
Year the source first started: 1997
Geographical coverage: Whole country
Population coverage: Nationals (citizens) living in the country, nationals (citizens) employed in the country, foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country, foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country, asylum seekers.

- Publication/dissemination of data on population groups covered: Nationals (citizens) living in the country, nationals (citizens) employed in the country, foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country, foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country, asylum seekers.

Age coverage: All ages

TOPICS COVERED

Demographic characteristics: Age, marital status, household size, sex, educational attainment, household composition.
International migration related characteristics: Country of birth, nationality, duration of stay in country to date, reason for migration, foreign workers in the country.
Labour related characteristics: Employment status, occupation, industry/economic sector, status in employment, wage rate, hours worked, occupational injury.
Remittances related characteristics: N.A.

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Definition of migrant worker: N.A.
Definition of short-term migrant worker: N.A.
Definition of a national (citizen) living abroad: N.A
Definition of employment: It follows the standard ILO definition.
Definition of household income: N.A

CLASSIFICATION

Classification used for occupation: National adaptation of ISCO
- Number of digits used to release occupation data: N.A.
Classification used for industry: NACE, NAICS
- Number of digits used to release industry data: 1
Classification used for status in employment: National adaptation of ICSE
Classification used for status in education: National adaptation of ISCED

DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

Dissemination of results: Web site
Metadata has been prepared and disseminated: Yes